



# THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Charity No. 800482

Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 7DD

Tel: 01258 450095 (General Office) 01258 451456 (Shops and Fundraising)

[www.friendsofblandford.org.uk](http://www.friendsofblandford.org.uk)

**Newsletter No. 58**

**AUTUMN 2019**

## GORDON ADAM OBE



Our Life Vice President, Gordon Adam OBE, 87, passed away on 9th July having spent his final weeks in the hospital to which he was so dedicated.

Gordon, a very proud Scot, was born in Leith. He qualified as an Engineer before enlisting in the Navy and commissioning as a Sub Lieutenant in 1954.

Following his National Service, Gordon joined Marks and Spencer. After training in Glasgow he moved to Head Office and progressed to lead the Export Department, involving travel all over the world developing the business. It was for his services to export, during that 33 year career, that he was awarded his OBE.

Gordon retired in 1988 and he and his wife Susan moved to Dorset embracing village life.

A Community man, Gordon actively supported the charities he was involved in. His fundraising efforts started with his Sons' primary school and he was a trustee of a hospice in Hertfordshire. He was a Vice President of the British Clothing Export Council and also worked alongside the Princess Royal with Save the Children.

It was in his retirement he joined the Friends of Blandford

Hospital and was tasked with raising £120,000. A "Born Retailer", he embraced the challenge and started with a "Jumblerama", making an astonishing £3,500. With so much stock left from the event, a temporary charity shop was set up for 3 months in Blandford in 1993. The shop was soon joined by a second in Sturminster Newton. Those shops together raise more than £130,000 a year and are a true legacy to the man who had the inspiration, foresight and skills to ensure their success.

Many other events followed under Gordon's tenure as Fundraising Chairman and the £120,000 was quickly surpassed. His 18 auctions alone raised over £100,000 and with the shops the revenue grew to millions. Despite retiring as a Trustee, Gordon volunteered regularly until his health would no longer allow. Many of our members will remember him in our charity shops, at our Auctions and Autumn Fairs. He remained as Life Vice President of the Charity giving much ongoing support. Steve Cole, Chairman, paid tribute: "Gordon was an inspirational man who had the foresight many years ago to establish two Charity shops, one in Blandford and the other Sturminster Newton. His extremely successful fundraising strategy has given the Friends charity a very stable and sustainable future."

Gordon was a man who gave everything his all. He was thoroughly modest, highly respected throughout the community, incredibly generous and worked tirelessly for the causes in which he had such belief.

Above all else, he was a family man. His Wife of 53 years, Susan, was his guardian angel and he was so proud of his Sons Douglas and Stuart, his Daughter-in-Laws Lorraine and Karen and his beloved Grandchildren James, Emily, Molly and Cameron.

The Staff, Members, Volunteers and Trustees of the Friends of Blandford Hospital extend their condolences to all of the family at this time.

**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH  
THE FRIENDS OF BLANDFORD HOSPITAL, OUR NEWS, SHOP SPECIAL OFFERS AND EVENTS.**



**@friendsblandfordhospital**

## Shop News...

As this newsletter reaches you, our shops will have launched their Autumn/Winter collections and we will be moving in to what should be our most profitable season. We have had a great summer thanks to our generous donors, customers and of course our wonderful volunteers and our shop figures are a testament to the work of that great team.

Space is always limited in our shops so please do ask if you are looking for a particular item. If it isn't on display, we may have one in our stock room, our other shop or our warehouse and we take great pleasure in finding the perfect item for our customers.

We love welcoming new visitors to our shops and hearing their compliments and feedback about our stock, our prices and our volunteers. The shop figures speak for themselves each year, but the customer support, both in donations and sales, is what makes it all worthwhile for the volunteers that give so much of their time.

Both shops are always looking for new volunteers to join their teams. If you would like to find out more, pop in to the shop and talk to the volunteers on duty, pick up an application form or give me a call on 01258 451456.

Finally, we are starting to use social Media to promote our activities, so please do look us up on Facebook and click "Like" and "Follow". Even better, if you would like to leave a review of one of our shops or events and share your positive experiences we will be very grateful. This is proving a very successful and free marketing tool that has endless uses to promote the charity.

### Our shops can be found at:

Innes Court, Sturminster. Tel: **01258 471245**  
Open Mon: 0900–1600 Tues–Fri: 1000–1600 Sat: 0930–1230  
Barnack Walk, Blandford. Tel: **01258 458390**  
Open Mon–Sat: 1000–1600

**To arrange a collection of goods for our shops, please call Emma on 01258 451456**

## Fundraising News...

This year we have already enjoyed our Golf Day, Art Exhibition, and 3 of our Prize Bingos but we are now looking forward to our busy Autumn Season ahead. The first event is our Bingo at the hospital on Thursday 12th September.

We will then be at the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival on the weekend of the 14th/15th September and our main seasonal event is the Annual Autumn Fair that will take place this year on Saturday 19th October. We finish the year with our Christmas Bingo which, to allow more to attend, will now take place on Wednesday 27th November at the Royal British Legion Club, in Church Lane, Blandford.

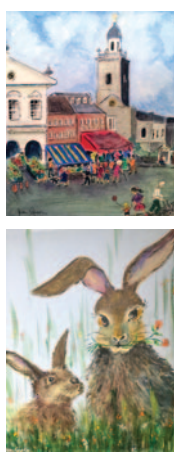
Full details of our upcoming events can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

We hope you will be able to join us at our events, you can be assured of a friendly welcome! Perhaps you would also consider helping us by donating a bottle for our Tombola, a raffle prize, a cake or jar of preserves for the Autumn Fair or anything that could help put together a hamper for our Christmas Bingo. Every penny we raise is used to support projects at the hospital or within our local community and every bit of help you give means we are able to raise more!

Our Fundraising events, like our shops, are the epitome of team work. A huge number of volunteers are involved in the preparation, logistics, staging and promotion. From the initial ideas to the clear up, our volunteers are integral to everything we do and all that we achieve. As I have said before, it's not just what they do, but the way that they do it! Without their commitment, support and big smiles it wouldn't be possible to achieve such results.

Come along and see for yourself at our Autumn Fair, the biggest team effort we have throughout the year. You never know, you may like to join us and help out next time!

I look forward to updating you on our plans for 2020 in our Spring Newsletter.



## Record Breaking "Affordable Art" Exhibition...

Once again, Shop Volunteer and extremely talented local Artist, Joan Capron pulled out all of the stops to put together her third Affordable Art Exhibition in our Blandford shop. This year, she broke through her previous records and sales revenue from the art alone amounted to £2302, bringing the total raised over the 3 Exhibitions to £4585. Joan has been working on this exhibition throughout the year and continued to add more of her work throughout the week to keep up the supplies, all on top of being in the shop most of the week to talk to the customers. The sale was based on 100% donation, with all the pictures, prints, cards, bookmarks and gift tags were produced by Joan and a few of her friends and donated to the charity. In addition to this, the shop itself benefited from a much higher footfall and had a great week of sales. Well done and thank you Joan!





## A message from our Chairman...

Have you visited our website yet [www.friendsofblandford.org.uk](http://www.friendsofblandford.org.uk)? You may have noticed that it is linked to our Facebook page and vice versa. I hope you are all finding it very useful, especially with the up and coming events and shop news. There is also a link on the website in order to become a member of the NHS Trust, which is a free membership for anyone over the age of 11 and offers the following benefits once you are a member: An NHS Discount website which can give you discounts on holidays, short breaks, airport parking and many other deals. Members get a newsletter three times a year and the opportunity to become a Governor if you wish to become more involved in the local delivery of the health service. You can also vote for public governors which is an annual event. I am a Partner Governor representing the Friends of Blandford Hospital and if you wish to speak to me about becoming a member please contact the Office and they will forward your details on to me.

The Friends AGM was held on Wednesday 3rd July in the Portman Suite and about 20 members of the Friends attended. The Financial Report by Trevor Bridle left us knowing that the Friends are in a healthy stable position, ready for future demands. I must take this opportunity to thank Trevor for his 12 years of sterling service to the Friends as he is retiring from the role of Treasurer. We welcome Steve Hayward as the new incoming Treasurer. Luckily, we haven't lost Trevor; he will remain as a Trustee on the Friends' Council. We had a very interesting talk from Eugene Yafele, the Chief Executive of Dorset Health Care University NHS Foundation Trust. His talk was about how he saw the future of Blandford Community Hospital developing in the future, with opportunities of new services which will save patients having to travel further afield for their treatment.

On a sad note, back in July we lost a dear friend and someone who was a very active member of the Friends, Gordon Adam, OBE and Life Vice President. He was responsible for setting up our two shops and the very successful auctions that we used to have in Child Okeford which put Blandford Friends in a very stable financial position. He shall be sorely missed.

It was lovely to see some of our volunteers at the Crown Hotel, Blandford back in June when the Trust celebrated the work of the volunteers in Dorset. This coincided with the UK's National Volunteers' week. We were all treated to afternoon tea and cake with entertainment called Laughing Yoga which impressed on us all, that laughter is the best medicine. We also had a presentation on the Well Being Service, a new service dedicated to keeping yourself

well through healthy eating and activities and included mental health issues.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer this year and look forward to seeing some of you at the upcoming autumn events.

*Steve Cole, Chairman, August 2019*



*Pictured here (left to right) at the AGM in July, President Mac McLaughlin, Chief Executive of the Trust, Eugene Yafele, Matron Helen Hunt, Chairman Steve Cole and Retiring Treasurer, Trevor Bridle.*

Save the date

**Dorset HealthCare University**  
NHS Foundation Trust

23 October 2019

and MIUs.

### MAKE A FRIEND A FRIEND!

Our members are our best recruiting tool so please continue to spread the word about our charity amongst your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

The membership drive is ongoing and we must remember that our organisation becomes stronger as the membership grows.

**THANK YOU**



## Project Manager's Report...

I am happy to say that this will be a short report as I have good news to pass on.

Since our spring newsletter, progress has been made on the MSK (Musculoskeletal) Suites within the Physiotherapy Department. The architectural design has been completed and agreed by the various parties who are to use the new facilities and the adjoining departments. The mechanical and electrical services have been designed and integrated into the new layouts for the relocated physio gym now in the area of the old hydrotherapy pool and this leaves the MSK suites to be constructed where the gym used to be.

Finally, access for the contractors to the phase 1 and phase 2 have been agreed. Both are difficult within a busy hospital

I have now received, from the Trust Project Manager, a set of tender documents and within the next couple of weeks a list of selected contractors will be prepared, and tenders documents will be dispatched.

This is the position at the time of writing this report and no doubt by the time you are reading your autumn edition the successful contractor will be on site.

Our Theatre is still on our radar and on the wish list for Matron and her theatre staff, and we continue to press the Trust at every possible opportunity.

I look forward to updating you again with the latest progress in our Spring Newsletter.

**Mac McLaughlin, President and Project Manager, July 2019.**



***In a bid to reduce the use of single use plastic, both of our charity shops are happy to refill your reusable water bottles whilst you are in town. Just pop in and ask one of our lovely volunteers!***

## Proof that age is but a number....

The Friends of Blandford Hospital were very proud to be able to wish 3 of their regular shop volunteers, Marie Redgrave, Betty Skeats and Irene Haines happy birthday recently. Not just any birthday, but they have all celebrated 90 years. Each of the ladies still work regular shifts in our shops and are much loved by their fellow volunteers and our customers alike.



*Marie (on the left) and Betty are pictured here in our Sturminster Shop*



*Irene in the centre with her regular Colleagues, Jean Churchill on the left and Jean Williams on the right.*

The ladies, who have all worked with us for many years, thoroughly enjoy their shifts. In fact, Irene calls it "coming out to play!" They appreciate meeting "so many generous people" and "the great friends they have made with other helpers". They actively keep our shops well stocked with great value bargains and are especially grateful to receive the wonderful donations that people bring to us every week. They thoroughly enjoy serving, and chatting with, our customers that we see regularly and also visitors to the area.

All of these ladies share a zest for life. They are genuinely lovely people with so much to give and they demonstrate that generous nature in all aspects of their lives. They are always full of smiles, energy and enthusiasm. They are an inspiration to us all and it is an honour to have them on our shop team and as our Friends.





## Matron's Update...

I cannot believe I have actually been in post over a year at Blandford Hospital, where does time go!

It has been a busy, but very enjoyable, year but a year with some changes in the pipeline going forward. A redesign of the Out-patient Physiotherapy department is going ahead thanks to the support of the League of Friends. This will transform the look of the department and improve the experience for our patients.

We have had new front entrance doors fitted and we will be having new windows fitted at the front hospital. This will improve the look of the hospital but will also improve the retention of heat in the winter. Whilst talking environmental issues we will also be having rooftop solar panels fitted. Dorset Healthcare are partnering with Dorset Community Energy to make this happen. This is great as this will not only reduce our electricity bills it will reduce our environmental impact. Great news on both counts.

We (Dorset HealthCare) recently had an inspection carried out by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and MIU at Blandford was part of this inspection and I am absolutely delighted to say we have been rated as Outstanding. This is a huge achievement Dorset HealthCare is the first mental health trust providing community services in the South to be given this rating – and one of only a small handful nationally. The Chief Executive has given all the staff an extra day's holiday as a thank you which we are all very grateful for. We are all very proud of the services we offer at Blandford Hospital and it is great to read the CQC have seen that the services we offer and carry out are outstanding.

Thank you as always to the League of Friends who support and fund so many things at the hospital both for patients and staff.

*Helen Hunt, Hospital Matron, August 2019*

## SAVE THE DATE...

### *Fashion Show 2020*

**When:** Friday 13th March 2020 at 7.30pm

**Where:** The Exchange, Sturminster Newton

*(Followed by a clothing sale, at The Exchange on Saturday 14th March from 9.30 - 12.30)*

*Please consider buying the raffle tickets that we have enclosed with this newsletter, or perhaps selling them to your friends, neighbours, or family. As always, the prizes are great. All ticket stubs and raffle money must either be received in the Friends' Office at the hospital by Thursday 17th October or brought along to the Autumn Fair in the Corn Exchange by 1pm on Saturday 19th October. Thank you.*

## How to contact us...

The Friends' Office at the Hospital is usually open from 10am until 4pm, Monday to Friday.

**Tel:** 01258 450095 (General Enquiries)

01258 451456 (Shops and Fundraising)

**Email:** [dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net](mailto:dhc.friends.blandford@nhs.net)

**Website:** [www.friendsofblandford.org.uk](http://www.friendsofblandford.org.uk)

## Thank you to Shroton Ukulele Club...



As part of their ongoing fundraising, which has amounted to several thousands of pounds during recent years, The Shroton Ukulele club presented a cheque for £250 to the Friends of Blandford Hospital. The President of the Charity, Mac McLaughlin was delighted to receive the cheque at a practice session in the Spring and found the evening most entertaining.

# Community Services and Volunteering with the Friends...

## *Help us make a difference*

Here we are in the midst of a very hot summer again. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of minibus drivers our social trips this summer have been minimal. However, we have managed to do 3 pleasure boat cruises around Poole Harbour and I am delighted to say for one of them, a curious dolphin decided to join us. As you can imagine this was very exciting!!

Our days out are always popular and again we rely on our fantastic team of volunteers who give their time for free to enable such outings. If you think you might like to know more about being a volunteer, whether it is a minibus driver, escort on the bus, or a driver to medical appointments, please do get in contact to have a chat. Albeit you only have a few hours to offer, I am sure we could utilise them! Many of the volunteers say they get as much pleasure from doing this as do the clients!

We will be holding our annual Cream Tea afternoon in the hospital dining room in August for our lovely volunteers. Just a small token of our appreciation to them for their support and time they so readily give to our charity. It's also an opportunity for new volunteers to meet current ones.



I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to a local Blandford company, Riverside Taxis. A couple of weeks ago our minibus was out of action. I contacted Riverside taxis to see

if they could help. They very kindly offered us the use of one of their buses, free of charge which enabled us to get our clients to their fortnightly Stroke Club. It was very much appreciated not only by us but also the clients. It is wonderful to know that there are businesses out there that care about the community and I can't thank them enough.

It's probably difficult for many of us to envisage what loneliness feels like but it is a big issue. Being isolated in your own home, not seeing anyone for days, most of us can't imagine as we go about our busy lives. We are always looking to recruit new "Befrienders" to join our team of volunteers. Please think if you know anyone who might be able to spare even an hour a week. Maybe it's something you hadn't considered yourself – feel free to call and have a chat and find out more.

*Lisa Deverell, Community Services Coordinator, August 2019*

## Blandford Befriending

We are looking for new volunteers.  
Can you spare a few hours to help locally?  
Do come and join us!

The Friends of  
Blandford Community  
Hospital

Join our team of befrienders who visit isolated older people in their homes, to talk, listen and provide some company for them now and then.  
Simple friendship improves happiness, reduces admission to hospital and delays dementia.



If you are interested, please contact us for more details about befriending or other volunteering.  
Call Lisa in the Friends office - 01258 450095  
or one of the befriending volunteers -  
Dee 07850 500552 or Jenny 07971 434137

The Friends is a registered charity 800482



## Membership subscriptions

Annual membership subscriptions were due in April. If you have not already done so, please pay your subscription as soon as possible. Please consider paying by Bank Standing Order which will help significantly reduce our administration costs.

Please note that the minimum subscription amount is now £5.00 per year

**Thank you for your continued support**



The 2019 Golf Day was again very well supported by local Golfers and Businesses alike. The event raised £2425 this year with the overall winning team representing Blandford Taxis.

The next Golf Day will take place on 19th June 2020 and further details will be available in our Spring Newsletter.



# Autumn Fair

**Sat 19th October**

**The Corn Exchange, Blandford**

**9.30am-2pm**

Join us to support your local community hospital whilst searching through our tempting bargains on offer.

**A VARIETY OF STALLS WITH QUALITY GOODS**

**RAFFLE    TOMBOLAS    REFRESHMENTS**



Join us for our next Prize Bingo at the Hospital on Thursday 12th September  
Sponsored by The White Horse of Stourpaine  
**Doors Open at 6.45pm. Eyes Down 7.30pm.**



Our Christmas Bingo will this year be held at Blandford Royal British Legion on Wednesday 27th November.

**Doors Open at 7.00pm. Eyes Down 7.30pm.**

**There is limited space so get there early to avoid disappointment.**

**Please help us with things we need for our Autumn Fair....**

Contributions of any of the following would be much appreciated for stalls at our Autumn Fair:

- Unwanted gift items for our raffle and gift stall
- Bottles for our Bottle Tombola
- Cakes, Preserves, Home Grown Produce and Tasty Treats for our Cake Stall.

Any donations can be brought to either of our Charity Shops or to the Friends' Office at the hospital by Friday 18th October.



## Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Child Okeford Village Hall, 9.30 -1.30pm**

For further information and to secure your place please email:  
[COwreath2019@gmail.com](mailto:COwreath2019@gmail.com) or call Alison on 01258 860663, Sue on 01258 861216 or Karen on 01258 863817

**A fun, creative and festive morning raising funds for the Friends of Blandford Hospital**



# CHRISTMAS CARDS

Our 2019 Christmas Cards (as pictured below) are now available in packs of 10 at £3.00 per pack. There are 8 different designs and the cards are available from the Main Reception at the Hospital or from either of our charity shops in Blandford or Sturminster Newton. Alternatively, they can be ordered through the Friends' Office by returning the slip below.

COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE



PARTRIDGE & BAUBLES



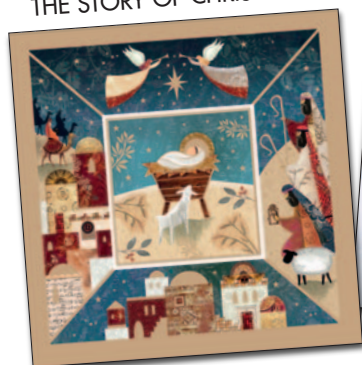
FESTIVE HEDGEHOG



SANTA & FRIENDS



THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS



PLUMP ROBIN



PENGUIN PARADE



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS



Please send me Christmas Cards as detailed below. I enclose my cheque for £3 per pack plus £1.00 per order towards packaging and local delivery.

(Cheques should be made payable to "Friends of Blandford Hospital")

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Countryside Village

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of The Story of Christmas

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Partridge and Baubles

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Penguin Parade

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Festive Hedgehog

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Plump Robin

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Santa and Friends

\_\_\_\_\_ Packs of Twelve days of Christmas

Please return this order slip to the Friends of Blandford Community Hospital, Milldown Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7DD.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

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